

Questions for Analyzing Units

Alignment

One of the goals we have for developing powerful learning is to create plans in which all the parts (priority goal, noticing targets/outcomes, tool, prompts, design principles and activities) are aligned. In this context alignment is a kind of consistency from one part to another, where the various parts contribute to moving learners toward the targets and priority goal.

Read through the unit plan and jot down your thoughts about the following questions:

1. To what extent do the noticing targets relate to the priority goal?
2. How do the learning activities in the lesson plans lead learners toward the noticing targets?
3. How do the learning activities prepare the learners to respond to the prompts?
4. What other examples of alignment do you see in the unit plan?
5. How could you strengthen the alignment of the unit?

Design Principles

This year LOMED congregations are working with all four design principles or strategies for creating learning. These principles are based on the research of the Lippman Kanfer Institute that states, "The new environment in which Jewish education operates in the 21st Century demands a new set of design principles for Jewish education itself."

Examine the lesson outline component of the unit plan and make notes about these questions:

ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO THIS EXERCISE:

- Focus on one of the design principles a time. For example, read through the unit answering the question about *purposeful relationships*. Then do a read through for *questions and challenges about everyday life*. Repeat for *inquiry and discovery* and *content rich and accessible*.
 - Working with a group of colleagues, assign each person one of the design principles. Have each person read through the unit looking for evidence of the assigned design principle. Then share your responses.
1. Which activities in the lessons reflect the principle "*Learning will be anchored in caring, purposeful relationships?*"
 2. Which activities in the lessons reflect the principle "*Learning will seek the answers to the questions, challenges, and meaning of everyday life?*"
 3. Which activities in the lessons reflect the principle "*Learning will enable individuals to construct their own meaning through inquiry, problem solving, and discovery?*"
 4. Which activities in the lessons reflect the principle "*Learning will be content rich and accessible?*"
 5. How could the plans be changed/enhanced to strengthen the application of these principles?